

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

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USCINCEUR VAINGEN GER

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AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

C O N F I D E N T I A L NAIROBI 3132

DOD/ISA FOR G. BADER

DOD/DSAA FOR LTGEN FISH

ADDIS ABABA FOR COLONEL SIGLER

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, MASS, PFOR, KE, US

SUBJECT: US-KENYAN SECURITY ASSISTANCE DISCUSSIONS

REF: (A) STATE 70525 (NOTAL) (B) NAIROBI 2807 (NOTAL)

1. GENERAL. AMBASSADOR, STATE/DOD TEAM, AND EMBASSY OFFICERS PARTICIPATED IN SEVERAL MEETINGS WITH KENYAN MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND ARMED FORCES PERSONNEL APRIL 15-16 TO DISCUSS SUBJECTS RELATED TO U.S. SECURITY ASSISTANCE PER REF A. WHILE KENYANS WERE DISAPPOINTED OVER SMALL MAGNITUDE ASSISTANCE USG LIKELY TO BE ABLE TO OFFER AT THIS TIME, DISCUSSIONS NEVERTHELESS ENDED ON CORDIAL NOTE AND SERVED SEVERAL USEFUL PURPOSES: (1) KENYAN OFFICIALS WERE THOROUGHLY BRIEFED ON COMPLEXITY AND CONSTRAINTS OF U.S. SECURITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS, (2) KENYA DEFENSE PLANNING
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CLEARLY BENEFITED DURING DISCUSSIONS FROM EXPERTISE OF MEMBERS

OF U.S. TEAM, AND (3) TEAM VISIT HELPED SET STAGE FOR EFFECTIVE, FUTURE BILATERAL U.S.-KENYAN RELATIONSHIP IN MILITARY FIELD. IN COURSE OF DISCUSSIONS DEFENCE MINISTER PERMANENT SECRETARY KIEREINI AGAIN REITERATED KENYA'S NEED FOR LARGE-SCALE CONCESSIONARY FINANCING FOR ITS PLANNED ARMS ACQUISITIONS.

2. TRAINING. KENYANS WERE PLEASED TO LEARN OF DOD CONTINGENCY PLANS FOR VIP TOUR OF U.S. MILITARY TRAINING FACILITIES BY THREE SENIOR KENYAN OFFICERS. NAMES OF PROPOSED PARTICIPANTS WILL BE TRANSMITTED TO EMBASSY ASAP. KENYANS ALSO EXPRESSED CONSIDERABLE INTEREST IN UTILIZING TRAINING/OBSERVATION FACILITIES WHICH CINC- EUR CAN MAKE AVAILABLE ONCE SPECIFIC KENYAN HARDWARE REQUIREMENTS ARE FIRMED UP.

3. AIRCRAFT. GREATEST CONTROVERSY DURING DISCUSSIONS REVOLVED AROUND KENYAN AIRCRAFT REQUIREMENTS. U.S. TEAM'S F-5A PROPOSAL GENERATED CONSIDERABLE INTEREST, BUT ENCOUNTERED MIXED RECEPTION. AIR FORCE COMMANDER GICHURU WAS OPPOSED AND HELD OUT FIRMLY FOR OPTIMUM AIR FORCE MODERNIZATION PROGRAM OF ONE SQUADRON OF NEW A-4'S PLUS ONE SQUADRON OF NEW F-5E'S. GICHURU SAID REFURBISHED F-5A'S NOT APPROPRIATE TO KENYA'S REQUIREMENTS BECAUSE (1) AIRCRAFT NO LONGER IN PRODUCTION AND THUS SPARE PARTS PROBLEM LIKELY, (2) IT WOULD TAKE AT LEAST TWO YEARS BEFORE KENYAN PERSONNEL COULD BE TRAINED TO FLY AND SERVICE F-5A'S (THEREBY NEGATING VALUE OF EARLY DELIVERY DATE), AND (3) F-5A UNSUITABLE FOR KENYA'S PRIORITY DEFENSE REQUIREMENTS OF CLOSE GROUND SUPPORT FOR TROOPS. TEAM REBUTTED WITH STATEMENT THAT TRAINING COULD BE UNDERTAKEN IN SIX MONTHS' TIME, BUT MORE IMPORTANT, THAT A-4'S AIR TO GROUND CAPABILITY IS USELESS WITHOUT AIR SUPERIORITY, AND NO MATCH FOR MIG-21. PERMANENT SECRETARY KIEREINI ALSO QUESTIONED WHETHER "HALFWAY MEASURE" OF SQUADRON OF REFURBISHED F-5A'S WOULD INDEED PROVE TO BE A DETERRENT TO HOSTILE, WELL-EQUIPPED NEIGHBORS. TOWARDS END OF TEAM VISIT, HOWEVER, KIEREINI EXPRESSED WILLINGNESS GIVE F-5A PROPOSAL SERIOUS CONSIDERATION. TEAM INFORMED HIM THAT IRANIAN F-5A'S COULD BE HELD FOR ABOUT TWO WEEKS WHILE KENYANS CONSIDERING PROPOSAL.

4. GROUND FORCES EQUIPMENT. TEAM MEMBERS HAD PRODUCTIVE DISCUSSIONS WITH KENYAN ARMY OFFICERS RE CHARACTERISTICS OF U.S. CONFIDENTIAL

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MADE EQUIPMENT WHICH WOULD MEET REQUIREMENTS OF VARIOUS ITEMS ON KENYAN SHOPPING LIST. KENYANS SHOWED CONSIDERABLE INTEREST IN SEVERAL U.S.-MADE WEAPONS SYSTEMS AND AGREED TO ADVISE US WHEN CONCLUSIONS HAVE BEEN REACHED. THEY WERE ALSO VERY MUCH INTERESTED IN POSSIBILITY OF VISITS TO SEE EQUIPMENT DEMONSTRATIONS IN GERMANY OR U.S.

5. RECOMMENDATION. I AM MOST APPRECIATIVE OF TIMELY, EFFECTIVE

VISIT OF THIS ABLE, WELL-INFORMED STATE/DOD TEAM AND STRONGLY
URGE THAT STATE AND DOD FOLLOW UP BY PRESSING FOR FINAL WHITE
HOUSE ACTION WITHIN NEXT FEW DAYS ON PENDING PRESIDENTIAL DE-
TERMINATIONS AUTHORIZING FMS CREDIT AND MAP TRAINING FOR KENYA.
THIS WOULD FACILITATE TIMELY AND EFFICIENT PROCESSING OF KENYAN
REQUESTS FOR TRAINING AND MATERIEL ASSISTANCE.
MARSHALL

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